

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

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S/S - MR. LUERS

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O R 282328Z JAN 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

S E C R E T STATE 018391

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: OPIUM POLICY AT GENEVA MEETING

REF: GENEVA 458

1. IN RESPONSE KIRCA'S INTEREST IN PREVIEW US
POSITION, YOU SHOULD ASSURE HIM WE HAD PLANNED KEEP HIM
FULLY INFORMED AS PROSPECTIVE CHAIRMAN FORTHCOMING CND
SESSION. BELOW IS SUMMARY KEY POINTS. WE EXPECT TO
HAVE MORE FULLY DEVELOPED GUIDELINES BY WEEK FEBRUARY 6.

2. KIRCA SHOULD BE ADVISED THAT THE MAJOR TENETS OF
US POLICY CONTINUE TO BE:

A. GOAL OF ELIMINATING ALL ILLICIT CULTIVATION AND
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TRAFFICKING IN OPIUM;

B. ASSURE AN ADEQUATE LEGAL SUPPLY OF OPIATES
AVAILABLE FOR LEGITIMATE CONSUMERS FOR ESSENTIAL

MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC REQUIREMENTS;

C. INSURING TIGHTEST POSSIBLE CONTROL OVER LICIT OPIATE SOURCES WHEREVER GROWN TO PREVEN DIVERSION TO ILLICIT TRAFFIC;

D. CONTINUING SEARCH FOR EFFECTIVE AND HOPEFULLY NONADDICTIVE SUBSTITUTES FOR OPIATE BASED DRUGS.

3. CONCERNING B AND D ABOVE, US RECOGNIZES GROWING DEMAND WORLDWIDE OF MEDICINAL OPIATES AND CONTINUED INABILITY OF RESEARCH TO PROVIDE ACCEPTABLE SUBSTITUTES, AT LEAST FOR REST OF THIS DECADE.

4. TURKISH POLICY. WE CONTINUE TO FEEL THAT MAINTENANCE OF TURKISH BAN ON OPIUM CULTIVATION IS A MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE EFFORTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO BRING ALL ILLICIT TRAFFICKING UNDER CONTROL.

5. FYI. THE LONG RANGE GOAL OF CURRENT US POLICY IS TO ASSURE THE ADEQUACY OF MEDICINAL OPIATES FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT DECADE BY INCREASING AND HOPEFULLY SINGULAR RELIANCE ON PRIMARY POPPY STRAW.

6. AS KIRCA IS AWARE, US PROCESSORS HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN THIS YEAR SUFFICIENT OPIATES TO MAINTAIN INVENTORIES AT SAFE LEVELS. WE HAVE THUS SECURED AUTHORITY FROM CONGRESS TO RELEASE LIMITED AMOUNTS FROM OUR STOCKPILE TO US PROCESSORS TO RESTORE THEIR INVENTORIES TO SIX MONTHS LEVELS. THIS MATTER HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH INDIA AND INCB DULY INFORMED. BUT SITUATION HAS FOCUSED ATTENTION ON NEED TO ASSURE WORLD OF ADEQUATE SUPPLIES WHILE MINIMIZING CONTROL PROBLEMS. WHILE WE HAD THOUGHT EARLIER THAT ADEQUATE SYNTHETICS MIGHT BE AVAILABLE IN RELATIVELY SHORT TIME, WE NOW CONCLUDE THAT IT MAY REQUIRE TEN YEARS OR MORE TO FIND TRULY EFFECTIVE SUBSTITUTES FOR OPIAT S, MAKING A
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CONTINUING SUPPLY THEREFORE ESSENTIAL. WE ARE IN HARMONY WITH INCB VIEWS, AS WE UNDERSTAND THEM, IN ANALYZING SUPPLY AND DEMAND SITUATION AND WISH TO WORK CLOSELY WITH ALL CONCERNED TO SOLVE PROBLEM.

7. OUR POSITION IS THAT THE GENERAL TREND TOWARD UILIZING PRIMARY POPPY STRAW (I.E. STRAW WITHOUT INCISING) AS THE MAJOR OPIATE SOURCE SHOULD AND MUST BE ACCELERATED. INDIA, FOR EXAMPLE, IS PLANNING TO UTILIZE SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF SECONDARY POPPY STRAW (I.E. STRAW AFTER INCISING) THIS YEAR. US GOVERNMENT HAS NOW DECIDED TO DEVOTE ITS OWN RESOURCES TO IMPROVEMENT OF POPPY STRAW PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY, IN COORDINATION

WITH INCB AND LEGAL GROWERS, IN BELIEF THAT GREATER YIELDS CAN BE ACHIEVED FROM ANY GIVEN ACREAGE AND THAT INTENSIFIED STRAW PROCESSING WILL BE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TOWARD IMPROVED CONTROL. OUR DECISION

EMBRACES ONLY RESEARCH AND TESTING, NOT PRODUCTION TO MEET DOMESTIC NEEDS.

8. AS WAS STATED TO INCB AND INDIA IN CONNECTION WITH STOCKPILE RELEASES, WE CONTINUE TO EXPECT FULL AND PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF NORMAL EXPORTS OPIUM.

9. WE INTEND TO DISCUSS THESE IDEAS WITH INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS AND INCB OFFICIALS PRIOR TO GENEVA MEETING. YOU MAY INFORM SENIOR INCB OFFICIALS OF SUBSTANCE FOREGOING.

10. MORE DETAILED GUIDELINES, WITH SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS FOR PRESENTATION IN ANKARA AND NEW DELHI, WILL BE SENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. KISSINGER

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